

The Examiner has acknowledged applicant's claim for foreign priority and has noted a certified copy of the JP11/186804 priority document has not been filed. Applicant respectfully points out that the current application is a PCT national phase entry application. The certified copy should have been provided by WIPO, as discussed in MPEP §1893.03(c). Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's request be withdrawn. No further action on the part of the applicant with regard to priority documents is believed to be necessary. A copy of form PCT/IB/308 is attached.

The Examiner has objected to the Specification, and Claim 11 on formal grounds. The Specification and Claim 11 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggested wording thereof. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for his careful reading of the Specification and claims and for his suggestions.

In the Office Action dated October 24, 2002, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-14 as being anticipated by Ara (JP Pat 07156379). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claim 1 as amended claims "...each of the first circuit and the second circuit face being pivotable about 2 mutually perpendicular axes.".. In contrast, Ara reference discloses in paragraph [0022]:

...It consists of three layers of semi-sphere-like heights 12a prepared in the center section of the support plate12...

Three heights enable Ara's support plate to pivot about only one axis. Applicant's invention has one pivot point enabling pivoting about 2 perpendicular axes.

Ara also seeks to solve a different problem than applicant does. Ara seeks to obtain and maintain a stable and reliable electric contact between the carrier and the cartridge to overcome the wear and tear from changing the cartridge, and an aging operating environment. Ara's solution is to provide a rockable contact member which causes less wear and aging during attachment and detachment of the cartridge.

In contrast, applicant provides a reliable electrical connection between a printing head and carriage in high density circuit applications. Ara's "one axis" solution would be inadequate in high density applications.

Ara does not teach or suggest providing a first circuit face and a second circuit face being pivotable about more than one axis as Ara does not attempt to solve the more complex problem of high density circuit interconnectivity as applicant has solved, and has claimed in claim 1.

Accordingly Claim 1 as amended is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-14 depend from and include all the limitations of claim 1 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 2-14 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectively requested.

New independent claim 15 claims "An ink-jet imaging apparatus... the contact base being pivotable about the touching

point on two different axes, said second circuit face positioned on the contact base second surface and being continuously contactable with said first circuit face."

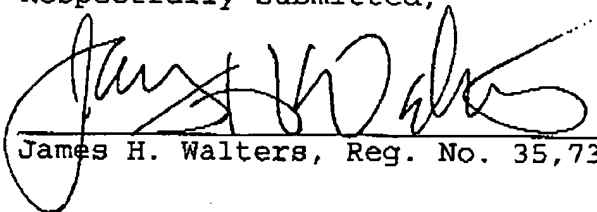
As discussed hereinabove, Ara's device does anticipate the inventive steps taken by applicant and claimed in new claim 15 to provide circuit faces being pivotable about two different axis and which are continuous contactable with one another.

Claims 16-20 depend from and include all the limitations of new claim 15 which is believed to be in condition for allowance. Claims 16-20 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectively requested.

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. No amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

In light of the above noted amendments and remarks, this application is believed in condition for allowance and notice thereof is respectfully solicited. The Examiner is asked to contact applicants' attorney at 503-224-0115 if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

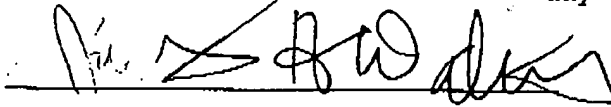


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MARKUP SHEETS SHOWING CLAIM AMENDMENTS MADE HEREIN

In the specification:

Page 8, line 10-20, this paragraph is amended as follows:

--The receiving face 26 has, at its center, a hollow 26a for insertion of the protrusion 40a (see Fig. 7) of the contact base 40. The protrusion 40a of the contact base 40 is inserted into the hollow 26a to touch the bottom face of the hollow 26a at one point. In this state, the contact base 40 is in contact with the receiving face 26 through the protrusion 40a only.

Therefore, the contact base 40 is swingable around the touching point as the swing center in the directions of arrows X, X', Y, Y, Z, and Z' (in all directions). The contact base 40 can be become slanted or paralleled relative to the receiving face 26. The arrow X,X' directions are perpendicular to the connection face 62 of the flexible head wiring 60, the direction being examples of the crossing direction. The directions of the arrows Y, Y, Z, and Z' are parallel to the connection face 62 of the flexible head wiring 60, the directions being examples of the directions nearly parallel to the second circuit face of the present invention.--

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) An ink-jet imaging apparatus which is provided with a printing head having a first circuit face having plural first electric connection points, and a carriage having a second circuit face having plural second electric connection

points to be connected respectively to the first electric connection points, and which forms an image by ejecting an ink from the printing head with reciprocating movement of the carriage in a main scanning direction in accordance with image signals transmitted through the first electric connection points and the second electric connection points,

wherein one of the first circuit face and the second circuit face moves to follow the other circuit face, each of the first circuit and the second circuit face being pivotable about 2 mutually perpendicular axes.

11. (Amended) The ink-jet imaging apparatus according to claim 10, wherein the contact base follows the first circuit face or the second circuit face by swing movement around the touching point of the protrusion touching the carriage [as] at the center.

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTICE INFORMING THE APPLICANT OF THE
COMMUNICATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL
APPLICATION TO THE DESIGNATED OFFICES

(PCT Rule 47.1(c), first sentence)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:
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202 Yokohama M.I Building
11-29, Daimachi
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JAPON

FAX RECEIVED

FEB 24 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 11 January 2001 (11.01.01)		
Applicant's or agent's file reference CP-F2000-69		IMPORTANT NOTICE
International application No. PCT/JP00/04330	International filing date (day/month/year) 30 June 2000 (30.06.00)	
Priority date (day/month/year) 30 June 1999 (30.06.99)		
Applicant COPYER CO., LTD. et al		

1. Notice is hereby given that the International Bureau has communicated, as provided in Article 20, the international application to the following designated Offices on the date indicated above as the date of mailing of this Notice:
- US

In accordance with Rule 47.1(c), third sentence, those Offices will accept the present Notice as conclusive evidence that the communication of the international application has duly taken place on the date of mailing indicated above and no copy of the international application is required to be furnished by the applicant to the designated Office(s).

2. The following designated Offices have waived the requirement for such a communication at this time:
- CN, EP, JP

The communication will be made to those Offices only upon their request. Furthermore, those Offices do not require the applicant to furnish a copy of the international application (Rule 49.1(a-bis)).

3. Enclosed with this Notice is a copy of the international application as published by the International Bureau on 11 January 2001 (11.01.01) under No. WO 01/02174

REMINDER REGARDING CHAPTER II (Article 31(2)(a) and Rule 54.2)

If the applicant wishes to postpone entry into the national phase until 30 months (or later in some Offices) from the priority date, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed with the competent International Preliminary Examining Authority before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date.

It is the applicant's sole responsibility to monitor the 19-month time limit.

Note that only an applicant who is a national or resident of a PCT Contracting State which is bound by Chapter II has the right to file a demand for international preliminary examination.

REMINDER REGARDING ENTRY INTO THE NATIONAL PHASE (Article 22 or 39(1))

If the applicant wishes to proceed with the international application in the national phase, he must, within 20 months or 30 months, or later in some Offices, perform the acts referred to therein before each designated or elected Office.

For further important information on the time limits and acts to be performed for entering the national phase, see the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 (Notification of Receipt of Record Copy) and Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

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